

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5529

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1520

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DEN UYL, J.M.), NL

SUBJ: DEN UYL'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

1. DCM SAW RINGNALDA MORNING OF MARCH 24 TO MAKE POINTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL.# RINGNALDA UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY THAT PRESS RELEASE AND DETAILED PLANNING FOR VISIT ARE HELD UP UNTIL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY NOTIFIES THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIMIN DEN UYL'S ACCEPTANCE OF MAY 14 DATE AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY. RINGNALDA, WHO ACCOMPANIED FORMER PRIMIN DE JONG AND FORMER FONMIN LUNS ON THEIR OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN MAY 1969 AND WAS INVOLVED IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORMER PRIMIN BIESHEUVEL'S UNOFFICIAL STOPOVER IN WASHINGTON AND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON IN JANUARY 1972, AGREED COMPLETELY WITH DCM'S EXPLANATION THAT ONCE DEN UYL'S VISIT HAD BEEN AGREED TO THE COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL SHOULD RUN FROM DEN UYL'S OFFICE THROUGH FONOFF TO NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO THE DEPARTMENT AND VICE VERSA. DCM SAID ONCE AGAIN THAT EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING TO BOTH RINGNALDA AND SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIALS ABOUT PROGRAM AND SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT OF THE VISIT AND THAT SUCH EXCHANGES WOULD BE FOR PURPOSE OF FACILITATING NOT RPT NOT DETRACTING FROM COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL
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JUST MENTIONED.

2. RINGNALDA THOUGHT THAT PRESENT PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS WITHIN THE GON WOULD BE CLEARED UP PROMPTLY FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH DEN UYL LATER TODAY, WHEN RINGNALDA WOULD GET HIS MARCHING ORDERS. HE THOUGHT THAT MAIN REASON FOR FONOFF FOOT-DRAGGING (AND EMBASSY AGREES WITH HIS VIEW) WAS FONMIN VAN DER STOEL'S STRONG DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIT. SINCE, HOWEVER, VAN DER STOEL WAS COMMITTED TO ACCOMPANY THE QUEEN ON HER STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 12 AND SINCE RINGNALDA WAS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO SUGGESTING ANY CHANGE IN THE MAY 14 DATE TO ACCOMMODATE VAN DER STOEL, RINGNALDA SAID HE WAS GOING TO PROPOSE TO DEN UYL THAT HE BE ACCOMPANIED BY STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST AS WELL AS HIS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE ADVISOR JAN MERCKELBACH AND HIS PRESS OFFICER. DCM COMMENTED THAT BASED ON THE FACT THAT DEPARTMENT HAD INDICATED THAT VAN DER STOEL WOULD BE WELCOME IF PRIMIN WANTED TO BRING HIM, HE THOUGHT THAT RINGNALDA'S PROPOSAL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON.

3. RINGNALDA PROMISED TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY SOON AFTER HIS MEETING WITH DEN UYL. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE THINK IT BEST NOT TO RAISE SUBJECT OF VISIT WITH FONOFF UNTIL WE HAVE HEARD FURTHER FROM RINGNALDA. WHEN WE DO SPEAK TO FONOFF WE WILL OF COURSE EXPLAIN TO THEM PROCEDURE WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW IN PREPARING FOR VISIT. AFTER FONOFF SURMOUNTS ITS CURRENT PIQUE WE EXPECT THAT IT WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH DESIRED PROCEDURE SINCE FONOFF AND NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL BE KEY ELEMENTS IN COMMUNICATION CHANNEL.
GOULD

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL OMITTED AS RECEIVED.

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